

# People and the PURSUIT of Truth

Vol. 4, No. 2-3

June-July, 1978

## CONTENTS

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Page</u>
Clay Shaw, the "New York Times," Jim Garrison, and the Power Control Group / by Richard E. Sprague		2
United States' Treatment of American Indians / by Marge Hackett		4
1. Introduction / Marge Hackett		4
2. Letter to Congressman Panetta / FBI		4
3. Corpse of Anna Mae Aquash / FBI		4
4. False Testimony by Indian Witness / Zodiac News Service		5
5. The Defendants as Accusers / Dave Lindorff		5
6. Prosecution beginning Rebuttal / Bill Farr		6
7. Is the U.S. an Indian Giver? / Wenonah Williams		7
8. Anti-Indian Legislation, a Summary / Marge Hackett		7
Larry Flynt's Special Report / by Leon Davidson		3
Correction: "Donaldson," not "Donovan" / by Leon Davidson and the Editor		3
"The Wounding of Governor John Connally of Texas, November 22, 1963" / by Dr. John Nichols		8
Some Comments from a Reader / by John P. Judge		8
The Frequency of "Pursuit" / by Edmund C. Berkeley, Editor		1
Public Hearings by the House Select Committee on Assassinations / by Edmund C. Berkeley, Editor		1

## THE FREQUENCY OF "PURSUIT"

by Edmund C. Berkeley, Editor

The number of issues of "Pursuit" in Volume 4 from May 1978 to April 1979 will be at least 7, based on our number of subscribers (197) in June. As we receive more subscribers for Volume 4, the number of issues will be increased. If we attain 350 subscribers for Volume 4, then the number of issues will be 12. This change represents an unavoidable economic adaptation to a reduced number of subscribers. For more information, please write us. This issue is called No. 2-3, and applies to June-July 1978.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS BY THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

by Edmund C. Berkeley, Editor

Many of us, I am sure, are waiting with baited breath

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This magazine is devoted to:

- facts, information, truth, and unanswered questions that are important to people, widely suppressed, and not adequately covered in the usual American press; and also to
- solutions to great problems that are functioning well in some countries or places, yet are almost never talked about in the usual American press.

the start of public hearings by the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA). Perhaps it has not been altogether unreasonable that Staff Attorney Head Robert P. Blakey has controlled all the preparations and appears determined to prevent the conspiracy issue from being recognized. Certainly, since congressmen are politicians, and since politicians regularly do not like to disturb the status quo, the committee and the Staff Head have bought time.

But the evidence of conspiracy in each of the deaths of President John F. Kennedy and Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., is overwhelming. According to its latest report, the Assassination Information Bureau (AIB) is preparing to present evidence at the public hearings. They ask for financial help. Their address is 1322 18th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. They are very much worth helping.

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## FIRST CLASS MAIL

Newtonville, Mass. 02160

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From: Berkeley Enterprises, Inc.



# Clay Shaw, the "New York Times," Jim Garrison, and the Power Control Group

## 1. To the Editor

From Richard E. Sprague  
193 Pinewood Rd.  
Hartsdale, NY 10530

The following editorial in the "New York Times" makes my blood boil. Here is a commentary on it for your use as you see fit.

## 2. Editorial in the "New York Times," June 20, 1978.

### Clay Shaw's Lost Cause

The Supreme Court has ruled that the death in 1974 of Clay Shaw, a New Orleans businessman who once faced preposterous charges of conspiring to assassinate President Kennedy, also meant the death of his civil lawsuit against former District Attorney Jim Garrison. The sad result is that Mr. Garrison will not be brought to judgment for prosecutorial abuses that injured the reputation of an innocent man for a better purpose: to build a conspiracy theory and discredit the Warren Commission.

Mr. Shaw was acquitted in 1969 after a bizarre trial at which the prosecutor produced a series of unbelievable witnesses who attempted to link the accused man to Lee Harvey Oswald. Not chastened by the verdict, District Attorney Garrison brought perjury charges against Mr. Shaw — for denying guilt on the witness stand at his trial.

At that point even the Federal courts — which had given the district attorney the benefit of assuming good faith — found bad faith and blocked the prosecution. What has now killed the Shaw suit is a quirk in the Federal law designed to redress official infringement of individual rights. The statute is silent on whether such suits survive the death of the plaintiff. Louisiana state law, which the Supreme Court says must apply, allows such suits to proceed only on behalf of surviving relatives. Mr. Shaw, a homosexual who many think was selected for prosecution because of his vulnerability, left no survivors.

Justice Blackmun, writing for the dissenters in the 6-to-3 decision, argued for a broader reading of the Federal law, an interpretation that would better serve "the great purpose" of civil rights laws. He called for Congressional action to restore the deterrent effect of potential damage suits in such situations. He is right; cases

like this, and officials like Jim Garrison, should be judged on their merits regardless of the idiosyncrasies of state laws. A judgment of sorts has come from the New Orleans voters: they have just elected Mr. Garrison to the Louisiana Court of Appeals.

## 3. The "Power Control Group" — Definition by Richard E. Sprague

The Power Control Group has been defined in prior articles by me and in my book "1-2-3, The Taking of America" as follows:

The Power Control Group (PCG) is a name for the category of all organizations and individuals who knowingly participated in any of the domestic political assassinations or attempted assassinations, or in any of the efforts to cover up the truth about those assassinations.

The truth includes the truth about a large number of murders of witnesses and participants.

The assassinations and attempted assassinations involved include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King, George Wallace, and Mary Jo Kopechne.

The PCG is a much larger group than just the clandestine parts of the CIA and the FBI, or the Secret Team as defined by L. Fletcher Prouty. It would, however, include all those members of the Secret Team of the CIA or the FBI falling into the category above.

## 4. From Richard E. Sprague

The June 20, 1978 editorial column of the "New York Times" contained the above item about Jim Garrison and Clay Shaw. If there were any lingering doubts about the Power Control Group's influence at the "Times," this editorial should remove them. It is inconceivable that the regular writers of the "Times" editorial columns would, by themselves, produce such a piece. Fletcher Prouty has said that there exists somewhere in the Pentagon or in Virginia, a group of writers producing this kind of editorial for all of the media controlled by the PCG.

Most of the writers, editors, and owners at the "Times" would not even remember that when Garrison brought perjury charges against Clay Shaw, the

federal courts blocked the perjury prosecution. Yet the words in the editorial were carefully chosen with detailed knowledge and memory by the PCG specialists on Jim Garrison and Clay Shaw. The purpose is to attempt, once more, to influence the public prior to open hearings by the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Rumors have it that the hearings may begin in August. Garrison himself firmly believes the Committee's findings are likely to completely vindicate him and prove Shaw's complicity once and for all. Thus the comments in the editorial indicate the probability of a new PCG campaign developing to discredit any unfavorable aspects in regard to the Committee in advance of public hearings.

There are many distortions of fact, misleading statements and lies in the "Times" editorial.

#### Misleading Portrayal

For example, Shaw is portrayed as a poor, put upon, innocent, harassed businessman. Yet Victor Marchetti has exposed Shaw's connections with the CIA. Richard Helms used strenuous efforts to protect and defend Shaw during the Garrison investigation and during his trial. A public image of Shaw was created for him by the PCG as soon as he was arrested in 1967; it has been perpetuated ever since. A crack in the image is allowed to creep into this editorial by the admission that Shaw was a homosexual. Prior to his death, and before gay rights became a popular cause, Shaw's supporters never did admit that.

#### Lie

The statement that Garrison brought the perjury charges against Shaw "for denying guilt on the witness stand at his trial" is false. What Shaw denied was that he had ever met or known David Ferrie. Photographs of the two men together at homosexual parties taken in 1959, coupled with the testimony of a dozen witnesses who had seen them together, would have convicted Shaw of perjury if the federal courts had permitted that case to go to trial.

#### Lie No. 2

A third example is the statement that Shaw was selected for prosecution because of his vulnerability, being a homosexual. A careful review of either the trial transcript or the "New Orleans Times Picayune" account, which is nearly as accurate, shows that Shaw's homosexuality (and the evidence about his strange habits that was acquired from his home after his arrest) was never once mentioned or introduced during the trial.

#### Is the PCG Unhappy?

Perhaps the PCG is unhappy over the recent events mentioned in the editorial. The Supreme Court voted 6-to-3 in favor of Garrison and against the Shaw estate on Shaw's suit against Garrison brought because of the perjury indictment. Garrison meanwhile has been elected to the Louisiana Court of Appeals after losing an election for district attorney in the early 1970's. The main reason was that the PCG put up a candidate against Garrison and financed the entire political campaign against him.

What the "Times" does not point out is that the Court of Appeals is the highest court in Louisiana

and a very powerful body. Jim Garrison is suddenly back in a better driver's seat, in terms of fighting the PCG, than he was in when he was district attorney. The voters of Orleans Parish in New Orleans have always known that Jim Garrison was being framed by someone. They read the "New Orleans Times Picayune" account of the Shaw trial, rather than the "New York Times" version. They know that Clay Shaw was guilty. They also know that Garrison was innocent of pinball machine bribery, and innocent of income tax evasion charges made by the Nixon Administration. All of this knowledge, plus the rumors that the Select Committee team in New Orleans has found that Garrison's evidence against Shaw, Ferrie and others is solid, may be creating panic in the PCG's house.

With Jim Garrison on the Louisiana court that, in the past, always rejected his appeals, a new D.A. in New Orleans might take the bull by the horns and open prosecutorial cases against the New Orleans conspirators who are still alive 14 years after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. □

#### LARRY FLYNT'S SPECIAL REPORT

Leon Davidson  
Blue Book Publishers  
64 Prospect St.  
White Plains, NY 10606

I have a quantity of the Special Report of Larry Flynt, publisher of "Hustler" magazine, No. 1, of the L.A. Free Press, for sale at \$2.00 postpaid. This was withdrawn from newsstands shortly after Flynt was shot in Georgia last March. It included a four-color 6" x 8" enlargement of the center of Zapruder Frame 335, showing clearly the path of the bullet across President Kennedy's scalp and skull (never before publicly available) and proves, for those who need this proof, that the wound was in the right front temple.

Larry Flynt's staff was disbanded after he was shot. The staff had been set up to process the information which came in from his million-dollar reward offer.

Good luck with your continued endeavors! Keep on with your publishing! □

#### CORRECTION: DONALDSON NOT DONOVAN

1. From Leon Davidson  
Metroprocessing Corp. of America  
64 Prospect St.  
White Plains, NY 10606

The last line on p. 8 of your April 1978 issue was (probably unintentionally) provocatively tantalizing, in the report from Richard E. Sprague, your Associate Editor.

Was the impliedly recently dead "Donovan" the same man who wrote the article on "National Security and Censorship" which you finished reprinting (coincidentally) on the top of the same p. 8, where he wrote, "Early in my career I might have been suspected of having been wired-in to American intelligence."?

(Please turn to page 8)